



**May 21, 2019**

**Item No. 3**

**RECOMMENDATION TO ACCEPT SUMMER YOUTH EMPLOYMENT GRANT  
AWARD**

Presenter: Mary Howard, Chief Resident Services Officer

**Recommendation**

The Chief Executive Officer recommends that the Board of Commissioners of the Chicago Housing Authority ("CHA") approve the acceptance of a grant award and execution of an Intergovernmental Agreement for a one-year base term with the Chicago Department of Family and Support Services ("DFSS") in the amount of \$1,160,000 for the Summer Youth Employment Program ("SYEP").

The requested action complies in all material respects with all applicable federal, state and local laws, and Chicago Housing Authority board policies. Staff have completed all necessary due diligence to support the submission of this initiative.

**Funding**

DFSS SYEP Grant Award: \$1,160,000.00

**Background**

SYEP is a part of the Mayor's One Summer Chicago initiative, which brings together government institutions, community-based organizations and companies to offer employment and internship opportunities to youth and young adults. SYEP provides safe summer experiences while helping youth, ages 16-24, build valuable employment skills. Participants receive on-going job readiness instruction while working up to 180 hours over the course of six weeks; 100% of the grant funds will be used to pay training wages to CHA youth.

CHA will be awarded funding by DFSS to build on the success of the 2018 SYEP, which served 1,829 CHA youth (52% were public housing residents and 48% were Housing Choice Voucher participants). Last year, CHA youth participated at 367 unique worksites across the city and worked more than 245,000 hours. CHA's SYEP is delivered in collaboration with CHA's contracted FamilyWorks providers, who are responsible for being the connection between SYEP youth, the worksite and CHA.

Financial literacy is another key component of SYEP. CHA youth participants engage in exciting online activities to help make the most of their summer earnings, including savings, banking, budgeting and credit building. Youth who complete these activities earn digital badges, which are digital credentials that provide evidence of a meaningful learning achievement.

CHA will directly manage the payroll process for SYEP participants and will provide multiple options for youth to receive their earnings. The first option is payment via a pre-paid debit card, which is provided at no cost to participants and allows youth to access funds at no charge from ATMs throughout Chicago. If preferred, youth can also elect to receive their pay via direct deposit to personal checking and savings accounts or a paper check.

Respectfully Submitted:

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Mary Howard  
Chief Resident Services Officer

**RESOLUTION NO. 2019-CHA-**

**WHEREAS,** the Board of Commissioners of the Chicago Housing Authority has reviewed the Board Letter dated May 21, 2019 entitled "RECOMMENDATION TO ACCEPT SUMMER YOUTH EMPLOYMENT GRANT AWARD".

**THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED BY THE BOARD OF COMMISSIONERS OF THE CHICAGO HOUSING AUTHORITY:**

**THAT,** the Board of Commissioners authorizes the Chief Executive Officer or his designee to execute an Intergovernmental Agreement with the Chicago Department of Family and Support Services ("DFSS") and accept a DFSS grant in the amount of \$1,160,000 for Summer Youth Employment Program wages.

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Eugene E. Jones, Jr.  
Chief Executive Officer  
Chicago Housing Authority